REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, and 15-22 are pending in this application, Claims 2, 9, and 12-14 having been presently canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 2, 9 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlborg et al. (U.S. Publication 2003/0078050, hereafter "Carlborg") in view of Atarashi et al. (U.S. Publication 2002/0159470, hereafter "Atarashi"); Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlborg in view of Ubiki et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,054,655, hereafter "Ubiki"); Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Carlborg in view of Ubiki and Atarashi; and Claims 1, 3-6, 8, 10, and 15-22 were allowed.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowed claims. In view of this indication, Claims 2, 9, and 12-14 are presently canceled.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is believed to be in condition for allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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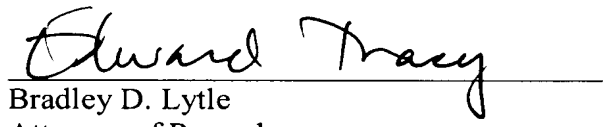

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